



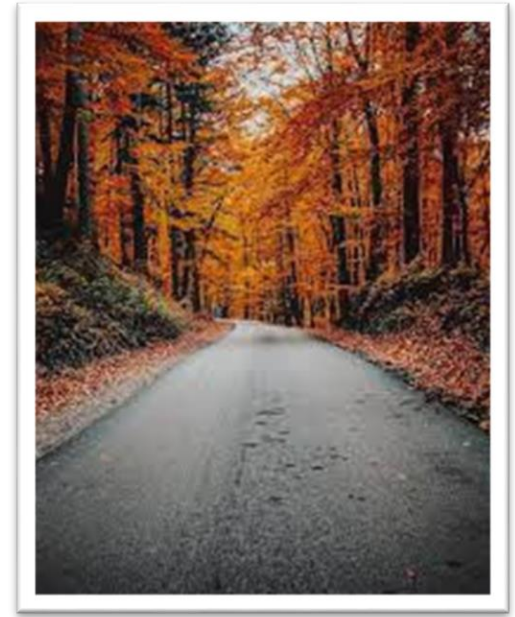
HELLO AND WELCOME

Hello!

Welcome to our October edition of the newsletter – these really do come around so quickly! Autumn is well and truly in the air, it's my second day back from my summer holiday, but I'm absolutely ready to get my winter boots and bobble hat out now. If you're waiting for a reply from me, apologies, I'll be responding in the next few days.

So how are you? Have you received the copy of our Autumn Claire House Magazine? If you have, what did you think? I thought this edition was so beautifully written by one of our amazing families Maria and Colin. And Liam's story was really emotional but sometimes I think people forget we look after younger people too, so his story was beautiful. If you don't receive the magazine and would like to, please do let me know. They are always available on our Claire House website too. [Our House Magazine Autumn 2023 - Claire House Children's Hospice](#)

So, on to our newsletter and what's coming up for our volunteers over the next month, as always, get the kettle on, put your feet up and read on.



YOUR ANNUAL VOLUNTEER SURVEY

I know I know, it's all we've been talking about lately! But we need your help again for our 2023 Annual Volunteer Survey. This is the survey we send to only Claire House Volunteers. It always comes at this time of the year, but has caused slight confusion with the Claire House organisational survey that has just closed. Really bad timing, but couldn't be helped sadly. Sorry about that.

So, this survey is the last one we'll ask you to do (I'm sure you'll be pleased to know). Last year this survey gave us some wonderful information about what volunteering means to you.

Did you know, 85% of our volunteers said they made a new friend when volunteering. Age UK identified that the Wirral in particular is a 'hot spot' for loneliness. So the fact that most of our volunteers have made a new friend, goes along way in reducing social isolation. We also found that our volunteers sense of confidence and sense of purpose increased when volunteering with us. And volunteers understanding of Claire House increased, which meant they are more confident when talking to friends and family about Claire House. This information has helped us in recruiting new volunteers and helped us plan our 'Just One Hour' campaign last year too.

So please do complete your Volunteer Survey, we really do use this information to guide us on what the next year looks like.

We will be sending you the survey in the post in the next few weeks so keep your eyes peeled.



CHRISTMAS HAT DAY

I'm really sorry to mention this so early, but we want to make sure you get the date in your diary in plenty of time. So, maybe your first Christmas invitation of the year, is to join in with our Christmas Hat Day. This is a brilliant, fun event that brings in much funds to Claire House and is really simple to do. Just don your favorite hat, it doesn't need to be Christmas related, the funnier the better, get your school, work, family, exercise groups, involved and join in the fun. Make sure you take lots of pictures, the best will be shown on our Social Media channels too!!

If you have any questions do drop me a line and if you want to get involved you'll find everything on our Claire House website. And finally here's a lovely poem written by one of our Claire House staff members;

**“Christmas is coming, Be sure to wear a hat
Please support Claire House, We'd be really grateful of that
On Friday 1st December, It's our Christmas Hat Day!
At work, in school or as a group, Simply do it your way!
Sign up online or get in touch, We'll send you everything you
need, And after supporting Claire House
Have a very Merry Christmas indeed!”**



TEA AND CHATTER

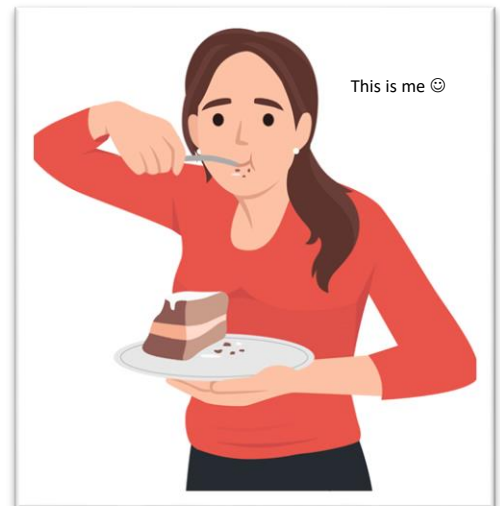
Our next Tea and Chatter is taking place on **Wednesday 25th October at 2pm – 3pm in our Wirral Hospice**. You are welcome to join us for an hour of chatting and delicious cake. If you've never been before, it's really informal. The Volunteering Team join and we just have a natter about all things volunteering. Seeing how you are getting on, if you have any questions, or if we have anything to update you on we'll tell you here. If you are nervous about coming, you are welcome to bring a friend or family member.

To RSVP just drop me an email on Amy.Harrison@ClaireHouse.org.uk.

JESS IS OFF TO OZ

Now, don't panic, she is coming back...phew! But the wonderful Jess Murray who many of you will know, especially if you volunteer in Retail or Fundraising. Well, she's off to Australia to visit family for a month!!! (who signed off this holiday....)

So if you volunteer in Retail or Fundraising during October and need any support please contact me, not Jess. I'll covering Jess's role whilst she's off, but please bear with me, October is a busy period so responses may be slightly delayed, but I'll always come back to you. Thanks very much.



POSITIVE NEWS

I saw this story this week which I thought was really interesting. As the cost of living crisis continues and everyone will be tightening their belts as we run up to Christmas, this story caught my eye. How to help other's for a quid!! You can't get much with a pound these days, but you can get crafty and help others, or help yourself and here are 10 creative ways you can do some good with a £1.

<https://www.positive.news/society/10-ways-to-do-something-good-with-just-one-pound/>

Until next time, look after yourself.

Amy x

